

• LESSON 2 (January 14) •

The God Who Establishes His Kingdom

BACKGROUND:

- The events of this chapter take place during Nebuchadnezzar's second year (603-602 B.C.)
- Nebuchadnezzar was not the first king to dream in the Bible (Gen 41:1-8; 1 Kings 3:5-14)
- If Nebuchadnezzar's threat in Daniel 2:5 seems too extreme to be believable, consider what he later did to King Zedekiah (2 Kings 25:7).
- Dates of world empires referenced in Daniel 2:
 - Babylonian Empire (625-539 B.C.) – head of gold (Dan 2:36-38)
 - Medo-Persian Empire (539-331 B.C.) – chest and arms of silver (Dan 2:32,39)
 - Greek Empire (331-63 B.C.) – middle and thighs of bronze (Dan 2:32,39)
 - Roman Empire (63 B.C.-A.D. 476) – legs of iron; feet of iron and clay (Dan 2:33, 40-43)

QUESTIONS WORTH THINKING ABOUT:

1. “Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion...” (Dan 2:14). What does this mean? What can we learn from his example?
2. What should we take away from Daniel 2:17-18?
3. How would you summarize Daniel's blessing of God in Daniel 2:20-23?
4. What does Daniel want to make sure Nebuchadnezzar understands in Daniel 2:27-30? How can we make application to our own lives?
5. Explain the significance of what is being foretold in Daniel 2:44-45.

CLOSING THOUGHT: “The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.” (Pro 21:1)